



Friends of the Earth

August 18, 2008

Mr. Charles Terreni
Chief Clerk and Administrator
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Docketing Department
101 Executive Center Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

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Posted: Lod
Dept: S.A.
Date: 8/19/08
Time: 4:10
SC PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
2008 AUG 18 AM 11:47
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Re: Docket 2008-196-E, SCE&G rate increase for new nuclear reactors

I am writing this letter on behalf of Friends of the Earth to further express our views about two matters: 1) appointment of a hearing officer to discuss a schedule change proposed by the South Carolina Energy Users Committee and CMC Steel South Carolina in docket 2008-186-E and, 2) the South Carolina Electric & Gas Company's "interim construction" request to be heard on September 10. I am filing this letter as our lawyer, Mr. Bob Guild, is away this week.

Though we believe that the Public Service Commission could go ahead and decide on the proposed schedule change, we do not object to the proposal by SCE&G to appoint a hearing officer to discuss the proposed schedule change, which we support, with intervenors. As the Commission has not yet included this matter on its August 20 schedule, we are concerned that not immediately addressing the request will result in further delays and uncertainties. I thus request that the agenda for the August 20 meeting be revised and that this matter be discussed this week. Even though final intervenors may not be known at the time of the Commission meeting and some comments on the schedule change may yet be received, the Commission can go ahead and act on the SCE&G request.

If appointed, the hearing officer can review before the time of any meeting with involved parties any final interventions or communication which might be received. If the Commission acts on this matter on August 20, the meeting with a hearing officer can be held before August 27 and I thus request that the Commission consider deciding that such a meeting be held on Monday, August 25.

Concerning the matter of the hearing on "interim construction" to be held on September 10, we request that all intervenors and other interested parties be allowed to visit the site of the proposed reactors before the hearing date in order to better understand the proposal before us. I request that such a visit to the V.C. Summer site be held on September 9 and that the hearing officer appointed to consider the schedule change also decide on the site visit requests.

It is noted that a hearing officer appointed in the Duke Energy "perconstruction cost" matter (docket 2007-440-E), in a Hearing Officer Directive of May 5, 2008, ruled that a requested site visit by Friends of the Earth to the proposed Duke reactor site was to be allowed for purposes of "entry, inspection and photography." The visit proved to be beneficial to an understanding of the site and yielded information and a general understanding of the site that

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facilitated the hearing later held on the docket. I fully anticipate that a visit to the SCE&G site will lead to a more productive hearing on September 10.

Further, we agree with the point raised by intervenor Pamela Greenlaw in her filing of August 11, that the Applicant be required to respond to any interrogatories and discovery before the September 10 hearing. Thus, the Commission, or the appointed hearing officer, should revise the normal 20-day response period.

We appreciate your consideration of the views expressed herein.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Clements".

Tom Clements

cc (via mail and e-mail):

Joseph Wojcicki

Maxine Warshauer

Pamela Greenlaw

Damon E. Xenopoulos, Esquire

E. Wade Mullins, III, Counsel

Scott Elliott, Counsel

Nanette S. Edwards, Counsel

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